

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND MARK RANDALL MEADOWS IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I characterized the sender of a November 4, 2020 text message to Mark Meadows as a Member of this body. The specific text message I was referring to was actually not sent by a Member of this body, but by another political figure.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS O'BRIEN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 20, 2021

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas O'Brien, an accomplished professional staff member of the House Appropriations Committee, who is retiring after more than 31 years of service in the Federal Government.

Tom began his career at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1990. In 2004, during his tenure with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Tom was detailed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, where he assisted with the fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2006 appropriations bills.

Following his detail, Tom became the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and would soon become the Chief Financial Officer. In his role, Tom was responsible for managing fiscal policies and practices for over 10,000 employees and \$1 billion.

Then, at the start of the 112th Congress, Tom rejoined the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture as professional staff, where he utilized his more than 20 years of Executive Branch experience. In 2014, Tom became Clerk for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. In this role, Tom was responsible for a portfolio exceeding \$23 billion.

Tom was an outstanding member of the Appropriations Committee staff for more than ten years, and he served on my staff for three of those years. Tom was tasked with working on some of the most complex issues in the agriculture sphere, and he performed exceptionally.

Tom dedicated much of his life to public service, and I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife and three daughters. Tom will be dearly missed by his colleagues—I wish him the very best in his next chapter and thank him for his devoted service to the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MARY RYSKA

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 20, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Ryska of River Rouge on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Her contributions to our community as a Rosie the Riveter are worthy of commendation.

Born on December 23, 1921, Mrs. Ryska was born and raised in River Rouge, Michigan, where she remains today. She attended school at St. John Cantius until 8th grade, when she left to work as a housekeeper in Detroit to help support her family. Though she had setbacks, she never gave up on obtaining her high school diploma. At age 67, she graduated from high school in Southgate, Michigan and earned her diploma.

Employed at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti Township, Mrs. Ryska was a riveter, riveting the camera pulley bracket on the B24 aircraft. She remained working at the plant until she was pregnant with her second child. As a Rosie the Riveter, Mary's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women.

Ever the hard worker, Mrs. Ryska has held jobs at various companies around Southeast Michigan. She was also the landlady for properties throughout River Rouge. She is currently a member of St. Andrew Bessette Church and was previously very active as a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Her lifelong commitment to service reminds us all of the impact that the Rosies have had on our state and nation. She was married to her loving husband Stanley for 48 years, and together they had two daughters and two sons.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Mary Ryska on her 100th birthday. I join with her family—including her five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren—and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our nation as a Rosie the Riveter.

HONORING EARL E. MCLEOD, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 20, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to a great South Carolinian for his service, Earl E. McLeod, Jr. upon his retirement.

Earl served as the Executive Director for the Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina from 1983 to 2021. Prior to working at the BIA, Earl was the District Administrator

and campaign manager for Congressman John L. Napier of South Carolina, as well as a national sales manager for Aluminum Ladder Company. In 2001, Earl was inducted into the South Carolina Housing Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Francis Marion University in 1996. He is a NAHB Gold Key Member.

He has been a member of the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Vice Chairman of the Lexington County Planning Commission, Member of the Home & Garden Show Executives International, member of the Board of Directors for Community Open Land Trust and a member of the Lexington Technology Center Advisory Board. He currently sits on the South Carolina Residential Builders Commission.

Best wishes to Earl and Judy McLeod beautiful home on Lake Murray.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION PEDRO PAN

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 20, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of Operation Pedro Pan. Fidel Castro's communist regime tainted a country beyond repair over six decades ago. Parents on the island became increasingly concerned with the communist rise and indoctrination of their children that was taking place in schools. What is today known as Operation Pedro Pan was the result of concerned parents making a critical decision about how their children would be taught and educated and these parents ultimately deciding to send their children to the United States, where freedom and liberty are guaranteed in our Constitution.

Operation Pedro Pan took place from December 1960 to October 1962 and was created by the Catholic Welfare Bureau. More than a thousand Cuban minors left the island and arrived in the United States. Upon arrival, many of the minors were reunited with relatives and family friends residing in the United States, while others were looked after by the Catholic Welfare Bureau. Other children were part of the Cuban Refugee Children's Program where they were relocated to various other states.

South Florida became a central hub where many minors arrived and settled. Throughout the years those who arrived in the United States have contributed significantly. Many went on to pursue various career fields that include business, medicine, education, law, and public service. Others went on to become small business owners and citizens who have come to strongly advocate on behalf of the courageous freedom fighters in Cuba who have endured decades of oppression under the communist regime.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.